FIELD DAY 1961

by

Art Vahovius, W9VSO, F.D.Chairman

This years M.R.A.C. "FIELD DAY" was held on June 24-25 at Lapham Peak, Delifield Wis. The following operators took their turn in pounding out points for the Club. Fred,W9DYG; Russ, W9RKP; John, K9PSU; Russ, W9LVR; Don, W9KQD; John, K9MTM; John, W9DGB; Gary, W9YGZ; Dick, K9GDF; Carl, W9ROM; Dick, K9CAN; Bob, W9ZB and ART, W9VSO.

The site itself would be an answer to any Ham's dream. The top of Lapham Peak towers 450 feet above the surrounding area. Terrain from an almost flat acre knoll goes in one direction---down hill. The signal strength that we pounded into all parts of the States and Canada, convinced me that the site does make a difference.

The rigs used were Rangers on 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters and a Gonset IV on 2 meters. The antennas used were as follows:

80 M inverted "V" with apex 110 feet up the FM tower.
40 M inverted "V" with apex 15 feet above the 70 ft. observation twr.
20, 15 & 10 m Telrex tri-bander @ 60 feet.
2 M 16 el Telrex Long Tom 10 feet above the 70 ft. observation twr.

The work started Friday noon,erecting tents and setting up the equipment by the advance party which consisted of K9PSU, K9CAN and W9VSO. By 7:30 pm W9DYG, W9LVR, W9GDF, W9YZG, W9DGB and W9ROM joined the group, and in short order the tent was pitched, generator started, and the rigs fired up. The next day, (Sat.) several changes were made to antennas to solve loading problems.

Everything went along fine except for the generator which conked out (again) on Sunday morning and a fine time was had by all those who participated. A total of 668 contacts were made for a score of 6,237 points. Mighty fine meals were furnished by Mrs. Borcherdt and Mrs. Bellanger and beleive me gals, if it was'nt good then how come there was'nt any left over?

The following people helped us out with gear:

Amateur Electronics--NC-300 Rcv. & Gonset IV 2 meter Rcv.
A & F Electric --RME 4300 Rcv.
John Czarnecki, K9PSU-- Ranger Xmtr.
Art Vahovius, W9VSO -- Ranger Xmtr.
Tom Gettleman (Gettleman Brewery)-- A huge new tent.
Carl Rohde, W9ROM--The site, and bldg with water and you know what.

I might be early in my optimism, but I believe the score racked up will be in the top contention. My sincere thanks to the participants for their 100 % effort in making this Field Day one that will be in the records as one of the best.

NOW, here is the story of one of the funniest things that was observed during the gruelling hours of operation. Fred, W9DYG, was operating, and there screwed down on the table was the "THING". That's a bug says I, after being informed that it was. Civil War vintage says I?? Question went unanswered, but then the "THING" went into action, and action it was. With a swing like a pendulum of grandpa's parlor clock, body english and a grim facial expression like his life depended on making a contact, a bobbing head with ye old corn cob pipe doing an up and down dance in cadence with the dots and dashes flying out, was just too much. My sides still ache. How tape-like CW can ever emanate out of a combination like that is way beyond me.

73

Art--W9VSO